

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK095

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR THE SECRETARY

UNCLAS WH37621

TOHAK 095

VIA AIRCRAFT

SAIGON 0567 IMMEDIATE
DELIVER DOB
DECEMBER 15, 1973
TO: GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT
FROM: AMBASSADOR GRAHAM MARTIN

1. FOLLOWING IS THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY GVN FOREIGN MINISTRY
THIS AFTERNOON REGARDING ATTACK ON JCRC CRASH SITE INVESTIGATION
THIS MORNING:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

TODAY, DECEMBER 15, 1973, AT 8:15 A.M., THE
COMMUNISTS ATTACKED 3 HELICOPTERS OF THE FOUR-PARTY
JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION AT A POINT DEFINED BY THE
COORDINATE XS 675.874, 8 KILOMETERS NORTH-WEST OF BINH
DIEN, BINH CHANH DISTRICT, GIA-DINH PROVINCE, AND 20
KILOMETERS SOUTH-EAST OF SAIGON.

ONE HELICOPTER WAS DESTROYED BY AK BULLETS AND
B.40 SHELLS, CAUSING 2 DEAD (1 VIETNAMESE AND 1 AMERICAN)
AND 7 WOUNDED (3 VIETNAMESE AND 4 AMERICANS).

THE THREE HELICOPTERS UNDER ATTACK WERE ALL
PAINTED IN ORANGE, COLOUR RESERVED FOR THE FOUR-PARTY
JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION AND WERE CARRYING OUT SINCE
THREE DAYS A RESEARCH MISSION IN THE AREA FOR THE REMAINS
AND MISSING PERSONNEL OF ALLIED FORCES DURING THE VIETNAM
HOSTILITIES.

THE COMMUNIST SIDE HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED
OF THIS MISSION AND EVEN INVITED TO JOIN IN BY AN OFFI-
CIAL NOTE DATED DECEMBER 6, 1973. HOWEVER, THEY ABSTAINED
FROM PARTICIPATING AT THE LAST MOMENT.

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THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME THE COMMUNISTS DELIBERATELY FIRED AT HELICOPTERS BELONGING TO AN ORGANISATION SET UP BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF JAN. 27, 1973. ALREADY ON APRIL 7, 1973, COMMUNIST ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE HAD SHOT DOWN TWO HELICOPTERS OF THE ICCS PERFORMING AN OFFICIAL MISSION FROM GIO LINH TO LAO BAD, KILLING ICCS MEMBERS ON BOARD.

WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAS ALWAYS STRICTLY OBSERVED ART. 18 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIETNAM, AS WELL AS ITS RELATED PROTOCOLS, BY EXTENDING A CLOSE CO-OPERATION TO THE ICCS AND BY GRANTING TO THE ICCS EVERY MEANS NECESSARY TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ITS DUTIES, THE COMMUNISTS UP TO NOW HAVE NOT STOPPED SHOWING A COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR THE COMMISSION AND HAVE DONE THEIR BEST TO SABOTAGE ITS ACTIVITIES AND TO NEUTRALIZE IT.

THE ARMED ATTACK AGAINST THE HELICOPTERS OF THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION AS WELL AS THE MURDER OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION CONSTITUTE THE LAST CRIMINAL AND CYNICAL STAGE A PARTY COULD REACH AGAINST AN ORGANISATION SET UP BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF JAN. 27, 1973.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM STRONGLY DENOUNCES BEFORE NATIONAL AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION THE BARBAROUS CRIMES PURPOSEDLY PERPETRATED BY THE COMMUNISTS. IT DEMANDS THAT THE COMMUNIST SIDE STRICTLY ABIDE BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT TO WHICH THEY HAVE THEMSELVES SUBSCRIBED. THE COMMUNISTS MUST BEAR ALL THE CONSEQUENCES WHICH COULD RESULT FROM THEIR CRIMINAL ACTS.

SAIGON, DECEMBER 15, 1973

END TEXT
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